

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

RETURNING,

*Without his approval, Senate bill No. 894, entitled "An act granting a pension to Nancy G. Allabach."*

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APRIL 22, 1896.—Referred to the Committee on Pensions and ordered to be printed.

*To the Senate:*

I herewith return without my approval Senate bill numbered 894, entitled "An act granting a pension to Nancy G. Allabach."

This bill provides for the payment of a pension of thirty dollars a month to the beneficiary named as the widow of Peter H. Allabach.

This soldier served for nine months in the Army during the war of the rebellion, having also served in the war with Mexico.

He was mustered out of his last service on the 23d day of May, 1863, and died on the 11th of February, 1892.

During his life he made no application for pension on account of disabilities. It is not now claimed that he was in the least disabled as an incident of his military service, nor is it alleged that his death, which occurred nearly twenty-nine years after his discharge from the Army, was in any degree related to such service.

His widow was pensioned after his death under the statute allowing pensions to widows of soldiers of the Mexican war, without reference to the cause of the death of their husbands. Her case is also, indirectly, one of those provided for by the general act passed in 1890, commonly called the dependent pension law.

It is proposed, however, by the special act under consideration to give this widow a pension of thirty dollars a month without the least suggestion of the death or disability of her husband having been caused by his military service, and solely, as far as is discoverable, upon the ground that she is poor and needs the money.

This condition is precisely covered by existing general laws; and if a precedent is to be established by the special legislation proposed, I do not see how the same relief as is contained in this bill can be denied to the many thousand widows, who, in a similar situation, are now on the pension rolls under general laws.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, April 21, 1896.

[Fifty-fourth Congress of the United States of America; at the first session, begun and held at the city of Washington on Monday, the second day of December, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.]

*An Act granting a pension to Nancy G. Allabach.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Nancy G. Allabach, widow of Peter H. Allabach, late colonel One hundred and thirty-first Pennsylvania Volunteers, and pay her a pension at the rate of thirty dollars per month, in lieu of that she is now receiving.

THOMAS B. REED,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

A. E. STEVENSON,

*Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate.*

I certify that this act originated in the Senate.

WM. R. COX, *Secretary.*

